

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Zerbst Airfield

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. There was no flying at the ZERBST (M 52/D 98) airfield in hazy weather in the afternoon of 19 November 1949. Three single-engine low-wing monoplanes were parked in front of the southern hangar.
  2. The road to DOBRITZ (M 53/E 09) was barred by a cross ditch. Three guns, 160 feet apart and covered with tarpaulins, were emplaced on the southern edge of the field. The gun barrels were about 13 feet long and pointed upward at an angle of about 45 degrees. East of the gun emplacements there was a cabin surrounded by steel masts about 25-feet high. The doors of all hangars were closed.
  3. Twenty-four officers ranking from sub-lieutenant to first lieutenant, all wearing gold-blue epaulets and pilot insignia, and three NCOs with gold bars on their epaulets and pilot insignia were observed on the road to the field.
  4. There was no flying at the field, between 16 and 27 November 1949, except for individual take-offs and landings by motor and jet aircraft. The rudder assembly of the jet fighter type with swept back wings was once more accurately observed and is reproduced on the attached sketch.
  5. The new air force uniforms previously reported were worn only on 7 November 1949. On other days the old uniforms were seen.
  6. Two cantonment buildings, each about 500 feet long, were under construction near the field kasernes.

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Comment:

a. The report confirms the occupation of the airfield by conventional and jet fighters. According to the shape of the rudder reproduced on the attached sketch, it is assumed that the jet aircraft are MiGs.

b. According to reports by other sources, the guns emplaced on the southern edge of the field are AA guns.

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[redacted] From previous reports it was assumed that two fighter regiments equipped with Yak-3s and about 60 jet aircraft are stationed in ZEREST. It is still to be determined whether the jet aircraft form a special unit or are assigned to the two fighter regiments.

1 Annex: Rudder Assembly of Jet Aircraft Observed at the ZEREST Airfield

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